

**SPEAKER BARRETT:** Thank you. Discussion on the Vard Johnson amendment to 784? Senator Warner, followed by Senators Conway and Miller.

**SENATOR WARNER:** Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'd rise to oppose the amendment. The dollar amount that is involved, in total over four years, is 2.6 million, and it is true that there are systems there now, but it is equally true that those systems, in one case, in both, in two cases the contract runs out at the end of this year, Wayne and Kearney. And to renew that contract would be substantially more, and Senator Vard Johnson is quite correct, it's to retain a system that is not very adequate. In fact I was very upset seven years ago when they did it because there was language specifically in the appropriation bill not to. But there has been a great deal of work that has gone into this system. And the reason for doing all four at this point is the simple fact of being able to get a much better bid. There is an educational discount generally in any event. But because of the systemwide application, and where they are using the same software, well it is the same software, it is all compatible with...between the other institutions. It is compatible with the state system, and this would be a marked improvement and a savings over all because all of these are going to have to be done. There is an immediate savings in the case of the two campuses because to renew their contract, which is expired, would be done at a considerably higher price, as I understand it. The...I would hope that you would reject this amendment as it is necessary, in fact this in 784 is not an indication that it was something that did not need to be done. The whole process was started, must be a year and a half ago now at least, and there have been numerous meetings in the development of the system that they are anticipating purchasing. I would urge the body to reject the amendment.

**SPEAKER BARRETT:** Further discussion on the Johnson amendment? Senator Conway.

**SENATOR CONWAY:** Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I rise in opposition to Senator Johnson's amendment. Much of what I was going to say, Senator Warner very adequately described. The whole process of what the state colleges are doing, under these provisions, make a lot of sense. I think maybe the thing to point out that may be of most value to you is that they've been working on this for a long time in terms of long-range planning